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AUGUST 24, 1970

TO: ROBERT HOUDEK (WITH VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY)
FROM: DR. KISSINGER

Please tell Vice President that we are very pleased with the launching of his trip and the firm lines of reassurance that he is laying out.

The strong backing of Cambodia is very helpful, with the only point of concern being the suggestion that if Cambodia falls, Vietnamization and our withdrawals from Vietnam would be impossible. The problem with this formulation is that it increases the adverse psychological impact on South Vietnam if Cambodia should fall -- which of course remains very possible, for reasons I mentioned to the Vice President on Saturday morning.

It would also be well to avoid reference to support of particular persons such as Lon Nol but instead emphasize our support for the government of Cambodia and the neutrality of the country.

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HAK:WL:ms:8/24/70

Com Center: Please send copy to White House for General Haig.

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